

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on February 8, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Hayzlett - Excused  
Representative Johnson - Excused  
Representative Palmer - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Mitch Holmes  
Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting with introduction of Representative Schroeder, who gave a Subcommittee Meeting report on **HB 2457** - Exempting nonresidents under 16 from hunting license requirements, **HB 2458** - Requiring archery permit holders to take a doe before a buck, and **HB 2459** - Abolishing permit requirements and harvest limits for prairie rattlesnakes. Other Subcommittee members were Representatives Prescott and Svaty. Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, distributed a proposed balloon amendment for **HB 2458** (Attachment 1).

Representative Schroeder explained that since nonresidents who come into the state to hunt are spending a sizeable amount of money so this would not a deterrent as far as getting a hunting license; therefore, the Subcommittee recommended no further action be taken on **HB 2457** at this time. Representative Schroeder commented on **HB 2458**, stating that if someone sees a buck, they would not wait to shoot the buck if they had not already shot a doe. Further, there were questions regarding check stations that would have to be monitored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), which would be expensive for the KDWP to maintain. There was also a question of whether crossbows could be added to lessen the deer population but decided to not add this item to the bill but instead wait until the bill comes back to the committee at which time the committee will have the ability to work the bill further if Chairman Powell chooses to do so. The Subcommittee recommended no further action be taken on **HB 2458** at this time. Representative Schroeder commented on **HB 2459**, explaining that the last commercial hunting of rattlesnakes was in 2007, and that anyone can protect themselves on their property by killing rattlesnakes; however, if the rattlesnake is killed on someone else's property, it is unlawful to keep the rattles. The Subcommittee recommended no further action be taken on **HB 2459** at this time.

At the conclusion of the Subcommittee report, the hearing was opened on **HB 2639** - Allowing mountain lions and wolves to be hunted without a hunting license.

Hearing on HB 2639:

**PROPONENT:**

Representative Mitch Holmes presented testimony in favor of **HB 2639** (Attachment 2), stating the bill removes any restrictions and legal ramifications for killing a wolf or cougar (also known as a mountain lion), as well as removes the restriction to be in possession of a carcass, and would put the wolf and cougar in the same category as coyotes. Representative Holmes further commented that it does not require the KDWP to spend any money tracking or controlling the wolf or cougar population. Representative Holmes cited several examples in his testimony of friends and neighbors who have seen the cougars and also have had farm animals

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 8, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

killed by them.

**Proponent Written Testimony:**

Kurt Fairchild (Attachment 3)

Mary Fatzer (Attachment 4)

Dr. Robert Vasey (Attachment 5)

**OPPONENT:**

Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2639** (Attachment 6), explaining the bill seeks to amend two statutes related to hunting licenses for mountain lions and wolves. Mr. Tymeson further maintains that the bill proposes to add to the list of exemptions for needing a hunting license and as the KDWP is a fee funded agency, it depends on license and permit sales to maintain the recreation and wildlife management programs it administers, and that there would need to be some very significant drafting issues with the bill that should be corrected if the bill sees further action.

After questions were asked by members of the Committee, the hearing was closed on **HB 2639**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

# AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-8-10

NAME	REPRESENTING
Steve Swatter	KFB
Chris Tymeson	KDWP
Serald Lawler	"
Matt Peck	KDWP
Ron Seebor	K6EA
John Donley	KS Lusk, Assn

# HOUSE BILL No. 2458

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

1-14

9 AN ACT concerning hunting; relating to deer hunting permits; amending  
10 K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 32-932 and 32-937 and repealing the existing  
11 sections.  
12

13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 Section 1. K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 32-932 is hereby amended to read as  
15 follows: 32-932. (a) (1) Any person having a permanent disability to the  
16 extent that such person cannot physically use a conventional long bow or  
17 compound bow, as certified by a person licensed to practice the healing  
18 arts in any state, shall be authorized to hunt and take deer, antelope, elk  
19 or wild turkey with a crossbow.

20 ~~(2) Such person holding a crossbow permit shall be subject to the~~  
21 ~~limitations of K.S.A. 32-937, and amendments thereto.~~

22 (b) The secretary of wildlife and parks shall adopt, in accordance with  
23 K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, rules and regulations requiring  
24 permits to hunt deer, antelope, elk or wild turkey pursuant to subsection  
25 (a) and providing for the approval of applicants for such permits and the  
26 issuance thereof. In addition, the secretary may adopt rules and regula-  
27 tions limiting the times and areas for hunting and taking deer, antelope,  
28 elk and wild turkey and limiting the number of deer, antelope, elk and  
29 wild turkey which may be taken pursuant to subsection (a).

30 (c) Falsely obtaining or using a permit authorized by this section is a  
31 class C misdemeanor.

32 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 32-937 is hereby amended to read as fol-  
33 lows: 32-937. (a) When used in this section:

34 (1) "Landowner" means a resident owner of farm or ranch land of  
35 80 acres or more located in the state of Kansas.

36 (2) "Tenant" means an individual who is actively engaged in the ag-  
37 ricultural operation of 80 acres or more of Kansas farm or ranch land for  
38 the purpose of producing agricultural commodities or livestock and who:

39 (A) Has a substantial financial investment in the production of agricultural  
40 commodities or livestock on such farm or ranch land and the potential to  
41 realize substantial financial benefit from such production; or (B) is a bona  
42 fide manager having an overall responsibility to direct, supervise and con-  
43 duct such agricultural operation and has the potential to realize substan-

Proposed balloon amendments  
prepared for the House Agriculture and  
Natural Resources Committee

Daniel Yoza, Assistant Revisor  
February 8, 2010

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-24-10  
Attachment 1

1 tial benefit from such production in the form of salary, shares of such  
2 production or some other economic incentive based upon such produc-  
3 tion. Evidence of tenancy, if requested, shall be provided to the depart-  
4 ment and may include, but is not limited to, natural resource conservation  
5 services records, farm service agency records, or written agricultural con-  
6 tract or lease documentation.

7 (3) "Regular season" means a statewide big game hunting season au-  
8 thorized annually which may include one or more seasons restricted to  
9 specific types of equipment.

10 (4) "Special season" means a big game hunting season in addition to  
11 a regular season authorized on an irregular basis or at different times of  
12 the year other than the regular season.

13 (5) "General permit" means a big game hunting permit available to  
14 Kansas residents not applying for big game permits as a landowner or  
15 tenant.

16 (6) "Nonresident landowner" means a nonresident of the state of  
17 Kansas who owns farm or ranch land of 80 acres or more which is located  
18 in the state of Kansas.

19 (7) "Nonresident permit" means a big game hunting permit available  
20 to individuals who are not Kansas residents.

21 (b) Except as otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of  
22 the secretary and in addition to any other license, permit or stamp re-  
23 quired by law or rules and regulations of the secretary, valid big game  
24 permits are required to take any big game in this state.

25 (c) The fee for big game permits and game tags shall be the amount  
26 prescribed pursuant to K.S.A. 32-988, and amendments thereto.

27 (d) Big game permits are valid throughout the state or such portion  
28 thereof as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the secretary in  
29 accordance with K.S.A. 32-805 and amendments thereto.

30 (e) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the  
31 secretary, big game permits are valid from the date of issuance and shall  
32 expire at the end of the season for which issued.

33 (f) The secretary may adopt, in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and  
34 amendments thereto, rules and regulations for each regular or special big  
35 game hunting season and for each management unit regarding big game  
36 permits. The secretary is hereby authorized to issue big game permits  
37 pertaining to the taking of big game. Separate big game permits may be  
38 issued for each species of big game. No big game permits shall be issued  
39 until the secretary has established, by rules and regulations adopted in  
40 accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, a regular or  
41 special big game hunting season.

42 (g) The secretary may authorize, by rule and regulation adopted in  
43 accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, regular land-

1 owner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits. Members of  
 2 the landowner's or tenant's immediate family who are domiciled with the  
 3 landowner or tenant may apply for resident big game permits as land-  
 4 owners or tenants, but the total number of landowner or tenant regular  
 5 hunt-on-your-own-land permits issued to a landowner or tenant and a  
 6 landowner's or tenant's immediate family members for each big game  
 7 species shall not exceed one permit for each 80 acres owned by such  
 8 landowner or operated by such tenant. Evidence of ownership or tenancy,  
 9 if requested, shall be provided to the department. Such permits and ap-  
 10 plications may contain provisions and restrictions as prescribed by rule  
 11 and regulation adopted by the secretary in accordance with K.S.A. 32-  
 12 805, and amendments thereto.

13 (h) Special hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits may be issued to a  
 14 landowner's or tenant's siblings and lineal ascendants or descendants, and  
 15 their spouses, whether or not a Kansas resident, by paying the required  
 16 fee for a general deer permit. The total number of regular and special  
 17 hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits issued to a landowner's or tenant's  
 18 siblings and lineal ascendants or descendants, and their spouses, shall not  
 19 exceed one deer permit for each 80 acres owned by such landowner or  
 20 operated by such tenant. Evidence of ownership or tenancy, and sibling  
 21 or lineal ascending or descending relations, if requested, shall be provided  
 22 to the department.

23 (i) Fifty percent of the big game permits authorized for a regular  
 24 season in any management unit shall be issued to landowners or tenants,  
 25 provided that a limited number of big game permits have been authorized  
 26 and landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits for  
 27 that unit have not been authorized. A landowner or tenant is not eligible  
 28 to apply for a big game permit as a landowner or as a tenant in a man-  
 29 agement unit other than the unit or units which includes such landowner's  
 30 or tenant's land. Any big game permits not issued to landowners or ten-  
 31 ants within the time period prescribed by rule and regulation may be  
 32 issued without regard to the 50% limitation.

33 (j) The secretary may issue, by rules and regulations adopted in ac-  
 34 cordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, resident deer  
 35 hunting permits available on a limited basis and valid for a designated  
 36 species and sex in designated units, and antlerless-only deer permits in  
 37 designated units as necessary for management purposes, and, any of the  
 38 following options:

39 (1) Either sex white-tailed deer permits valid statewide during any  
 40 season with the equipment legal for that season;

41 (2) ~~(A) either species, either sex archery permits valid statewide; or~~  
 42 ~~(B) a holder of a resident either species, either sex archery permit shall~~  
 43 ~~first take a doe before taking a buck;~~

(3) either species, either sex muzzle loader permits valid in designated units; or

(4) either species, either sex firearm permits valid in designated units.

(k) The secretary may issue permits for deer to nonresident landowners, but any such permit shall be restricted to hunting only on lands owned by the nonresident landowner.

(l) The secretary may issue deer hunting permits to nonresidents, subject to the following limitations:

(1) The total number of nonresident deer permits that may be issued for a deer season in a management unit and which may be used to take antlered deer shall be established with the goal of meeting demand for those permits, using a formula developed by the department that will consider adjustment factors, including deer population trends, deer-related vehicle accidents, age structure in the harvest, deer damage, landowner desire for nonresident deer permits, general public desires and health of habitat. The 2008 permit numbers shall be based on the adjustment factors and an average of nonresident demand for permits in each management unit from the previous six years, establishing at least a 10% increase but not more than 50% increase in permit numbers in each management unit, except in unit 16, where permit numbers shall not increase more than 100%. In subsequent years, the formula shall be used to determine permit allocations based on demand and the adjustment factors.

(2) Nonresident deer permits may be restricted to a particular deer species.

(3) Nonresident deer permits shall be restricted to two adjacent deer management units.

(4) Nonresident deer hunters shall select one season at the time of application.

(5) ~~(A)~~ For an additional fee, nonresident deer hunters applying for a whitetail either sex archery or muzzle loader permit in a designated mule deer unit may also apply for one of the limited number of mule deer stamps. If they are successful in both drawings, they would be issued a permit that will allow them to take either a whitetail deer or a mule deer in that unit. ~~or (B) a holder of a nonresident whitetail either sex archery permit shall first take a doe before taking a buck.~~

(m) A big game permit shall state the species, number and sex of the big game which may be killed by the permittee. The secretary may require any big game permittee to provide survey information at the conclusion of the open season.

(n) The permittee shall permanently affix the carcass tag to the carcass of any big game animal immediately after killing and thereafter take such killed game to a check station as may be required in the rules and

H-1

1 regulations, where a check station tag shall be affixed to the big game  
2 carcass if the kill is legal. The tags shall remain affixed to the carcass until  
3 the carcass is processed for storage or consumption. The permittee shall  
4 retain the carcass tag until the carcass is consumed, given to another or  
5 otherwise disposed of.

6 (o) The provisions of this section do not apply to big game animals  
7 sold in surplus property disposal sales of department exhibit herds or big  
8 game animals legally taken outside this state.

9 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2009 Supp. ~~32-932 and 32-937~~ are hereby repealed.

10 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
11 publication in the statute book.

(p) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, the secretary shall make available the same number of crossbow deer permits as archery deer permits for crossbow deer season. Crossbow deer season shall run concurrently and throughout archery deer season. Crossbow deer permits issued during archery deer season shall be issued without regard to the hunter's disability status.

is



STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
300 S.W. TENTH STREET  
TOPEKA, KS 66612  
(785) 296-7663  
mitch.holmes@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT ADDRESS:  
211 S.E. 20TH AVE.  
ST. JOHN, KS 67576  
(620) 234-5834

**MITCH HOLMES**

114TH DISTRICT

ALL OF PRATT & STAFFORD COUNTIES  
PORTIONS OF EDWARDS, PAWNEE & RENO COUNTIES

## Testimony in Favor of HB 2639 February 8, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Committee. I'm here in support of HB2639, which removes any restrictions and legal ramifications for killing wolf or a Cougar (also known as a Mountain Lion). First off, let me state what the bill does NOT do.

The bill does not require KDWP to eradicate anything. It does not require them to spend any money tracking or controlling any populations. It does not require anything of KDWP.

What the bill does do is add mountain lions and wolves to the list of wildlife that is exempt from needing a permit to kill. It also removes the restriction to be in possession of a carcass.

The opposition to this bill will more than likely testify that we only have two confirmed instances of cougars in Kansas over the past 100 years. I would contend that the only reason they will admit to two instances is because the evidence is so overwhelming that they can't possibly deny the obvious. KDWP routinely dismisses eye witnesses as untrained observers who exaggerate the sighting of a coyote or bobcat.

KDWP will probably claim that they offer to hunt down and remove any predator that is causing a problem for farmers. However, this costs the department money. In addition, with the consistent denial of these animals' existence, how can a farmer trust them to actively try to hunt or trap one?

I've had a few emails from a scientist from KDWP saying that a hearing on this issue would be a 3-ring circus, and that it would have the same flavor as a gathering of UFO enthusiasts sharing the latest rumors.

I'm fully aware that people often misidentify things that they are unfamiliar with, and I understand that people like to pass on sensational stories and rumors. There are certainly rumors floating around out there. Some of them have a real conspiracy feel – that KDWP re-introduced the cats to control deer population, that they have chips implanted in them, etc. When I put out the word that I was looking for conferees, I received calls and emails from people with lots rumors. It seems that everyone knows someone who knows someone who has seen a cougar.

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-24-10  
Attachment 2

Because of the amount of rumors out there, I was determined to eliminate all hearsay and get only first hand witnesses who had the opportunity to positively identify what they saw, or has experienced the direct loss that cannot credibly be explained in any other way. You will notice that none of the testimony I have provided is of the sensational type, and they all come from people who are well grounded, stable, and have longevity in their residence and occupation. They have lived in rural areas most or all of their lives and have a good knowledge of what is normal and what is not.

#### Personal testimony

My own experience has confirmed what I have heard other locals talking about for years. Every summer, we raise 4 or 5 pigs. In September 2008, we had one missing. My 15 year old daughter went searching for it and came upon its carcass. What she saw scared her bad enough to run back to the house as fast as she could. It had an eleven inch tear in the side of its neck, with clearly defined claw marks at the start of the tear. The claws were at least an inch apart. I called my vet (who has provided written testimony of his own experiences) and asked what kind of predator in Kansas could kill a 250 pound pig. He answered without hesitation that it must have been a cougar. I chided him and said, "Come on, we all know there aren't cougars in Kansas". He then responded that he had personally seen two of them on different occasions, and occasionally saw livestock that had encountered them.

So I called a KDWP officer to show him the carcass and ask what could have possibly made such a gash on a pig that size. Unfortunately, I was not present when he arrived, but he told my wife that the other pigs probably killed it. Incidentally, the pigs we had all came from the same litter and grew up together.

#### Would be conferees:

Due to the tight schedule, I was not able to get all the written testimony that I had hoped to. So I will summarize some contacts I had last week and over the weekend and have testimony in the mail.

Ray Barnes, a Pratt County resident who is 71 years old, stated that he has hunted cougars all his adult life in other states. He has seen them on several occasions on his farm and has had several horses severely wounded, but none killed. Rex sees their tracks frequently on his farm. When asked if he could have mistaken them for another animal, he will forcefully remind the listener that he has hunted them many years and knows what they look like.

Judy Swader, who is my neighbor in Stafford County, has had numerous occasions of horses with "stripes" from the shoulders all the way down to the rump. She called my wife one day to say we should keep the children inside, as she was observing a cougar sunning himself in a wide open space. She described the cat as casually flicking its long tail.

Sam Crissman of Stafford County. Born and raised on his farm, has seen what he believes to be the same cougar twice. Both sightings were within 100 yards of each other and the cat was the same grayish color. These sightings were by Wildhorse Creek, near the Stafford/Pawnee county line. One

instance was on an extremely hot summer day in 2008 when Sam drove his tractor over a culvert. The cat ran out from inside the culvert as the tractor rumbled over it. He assumes it was trying to escape the heat of the day. He says that there is no mistaking it for another kind of animal. "A cat doesn't run like a dog or a deer". He also says the long tail is very distinctive.

Will Bell of rural Medicine Lodge. Several years ago, his eight year old daughter was in the yard jumping on a trampoline. She came running into the house saying, "Daddy, come look at the cat in our yard". Will went out assuming to see a stray domestic cat. He was shocked to see what he estimates to be a 200 pound cat in his yard. He run back in to get his gun, but the cat was gone when he returned. He fears that the cat was attracted to the jumping motion of his daughter on the trampoline.

Vance Wendelburg from Stafford County. Vance is a farmer/rancher with a masters degree. Two years ago, he happened upon a freshly killed deer on a cold day. It was obviously a large animal with claws that had killed it, and there was still steam rising from the carcass. Vance "wasted no time" getting away from there, as he was afraid a large cat might still be close by. A few weeks ago, he spotted one in broad daylight and regretted not having his rifle with him that day.

Anonymous from Pratt County. Used to walk in the country for exercise, but no longer does because of sighting cat prints as big as her foot.

One common theme I hear is how the evidence of these animals strikes fear into those who happen upon it. I have two testimonies of cougars in the yards of farmers, and the experience I had was probably less than 200 yards from my house.

The bottom line is that this bill will put cougars (and wolves) in the same category as coyotes. This isn't the radical policy that some claim it is. Coyotes are considered a predator which farmers are free to shoot on sight without fear of consequences. Farmers are willing to shoot to protect their families and their livestock. We should not have any prohibitions that would penalize them for doing so. Please support HB 2639.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitch Holmes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
300 S.W. TENTH STREET  
TOPEKA, KS 66612  
(785) 296-7663  
mitch.holmes@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT ADDRESS:  
211 S.E. 20TH AVE.  
ST. JOHN, KS 67576  
(620) 234-5834

MITCH HOLMES

114TH DISTRICT

ALL OF PRATT & STAFFORD COUNTIES  
PORTIONS OF EDWARDS, PAWNEE & RENO COUNTIES

Testimony in Favor of HB 2639  
Kurt Fairchild  
February 8, 2010

My name is Kurt Fairchild. I am 55 years old and have been a resident of St. John and Stafford County all my life. I operated a cow-calf operation and backgrounded yearling calves for over thirty years.

Approximately eight years ago, I was running about 110 head of yearling calves on 240 acres of corn stubble and rye two miles north and east of St. John. It was an acreage I own on which I had a corral surrounded by trees for a shelter where the calves came in for water and silage. We fed them silage with the feed truck every morning. One morning after they had been in this location for sixty days, the calves were circling and running out in the field and refused to come into the corral for feed and water. My hired man and I left the cattle alone figuring they would settle down in a few hours. When we drove over a few hours later to check, the calves were still terribly spooked and would not come near the corral. I had run cattle for over thirty years on this property and had never seen anything like this before.

This scenario lasted for days, and I finally had to set a water tank out in the middle of the 240 acres and haul water because they refused to come into the corral for water. Every time I tried to lead the cattle into the corral, they would get close, throw their heads up in the air and then stampede away.

The day after the cattle had acted so crazy, a neighbor met me on the road and told me that he had seen a mountain lion on the township road adjacent to my calves while he had been quail hunting. I perked up when he said this and asked him again what he had seen. He said again that he was sure it was a mountain lion because of its size and long tail.

With my experience in cattle, I am sure it was not a deer, coyote, or bobcat that was spooking them. The calves never really did settle down, and they had been docile and easy to handle up until that day.

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-24-10  
Attachment 3

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
300 S.W. TENTH STREET  
TOPEKA, KS 66612  
(785) 296-7663  
mitch.holmes@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT ADDRESS:  
211 S.E. 20TH AVE.  
ST. JOHN, KS 67576  
(620) 234-5834

**MITCH HOLMES**

114TH DISTRICT

ALL OF PRATT & STAFFORD COUNTIES  
PORTIONS OF EDWARDS, PAWNEE & RENO COUNTIES

Testimony in Favor of HB 2639  
Mary Fatzer  
February 8, 2010

Report of Mountain Lion sightings in Stafford County

October 22, 2009 – At 8:45 in the evening I was alerted by the sound of my Blue Heeler barking on the front porch and furniture being rearranged. I have a yard light but it is south of the house and the porch is on the east. I went to the front door and flipped on the light. I was astonished to see the dog standing face to face with this mountain lion. The porch is 3 steps from the ground and I approximate the height of the lion at 3 foot. In the dark I could only see the head clearly. The face was wide with yellow eyes was the soft brown of a deer. I opened the door and shouted and then ran for my phone. When I came back it was gone.

October 25, 2009 - The next Sunday morning in full light I looked out the kitchen window and saw what I believed to be the same cat cross from a machine shed to a pole barn. At this time my view was partially obstructed by a weedy fence line. The main attraction was this dark tipped tail that was waving back and forth as it left my field of vision.

October 27, 2009 – 7:15 AM While preparing to shut the dog up for the day she came to attention started barking and took off at full speed toward the south. All I saw at this time was a blur of color which she chased into the tree lot south of the machine shed. The dog returned quite satisfied in about 30 seconds and I figured she had treed the beast.

We have had no further occurrences since then. We are shutting everything up before dark and keeping the dog in her yard all night.

Mary Fatzer  
Lifetime county resident

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-24-10  
Attachment 4

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
300 S.W. TENTH STREET  
TOPEKA, KS 66612  
(785) 296-7663  
mitch.holmes@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT ADDRESS:  
211 S.E. 20TH AVE.  
ST. JOHN, KS 67576  
(620) 234-5834

MITCH HOLMES

114TH DISTRICT

ALL OF PRATT & STAFFORD COUNTIES  
PORTIONS OF EDWARDS, PAWNEE & RENO COUNTIES

Testimony in Favor of HB 2639  
Dr. Robert Vasey  
February 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern: I am Robert K . Vasey, I am a veterinarian serving the Stafford county and western part of Reno county area. I am writing this to comment on sightings of cougars.

I have personally seen a black cougar cross the road in front of my pickup not more than 20 yards away. I spotted it one mile east and two and a half miles north of Zenith. It was huge, with a tail well over three feet. That was ten years ago.

The next sighting was six years ago. My wife and I were driving home west bound on highway 50 just north of Plevna. The big cat crossed about 25 yards in front of our car. Both of these sightings were in full day light.

Thirty years ago, I was called to a client west of Langdon who had lost a calf. He was sure it was a cougar. I doubted what he was saying, until he showed me the tracks.

Through the years I have seen three horses that were attacked by what in my opinion had to be a cougar from the bite wounds. The tooth marks were too far apart, and too deep to be from any other predator native to Kansas.

I was also called to a pasture west of Turon where a 500 pound calf had been killed and partially eaten and dragged to where it would be safe from the coyotes. He left his tracks, making it easy to conclude what had killed the calf.

Robert K. Vasey, D.V.M.

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-24-10  
Attachment 5

**Testimony on HB 2639 regarding Mountain Lions, Wolves and Hunting Licenses  
To**

**The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

**February 8, 2010**

HB 2639 seeks to amend two statutes related to hunting licenses for mountain lions and wolves. The provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill.**

A basic tenant of the conservation model of North America is that the sale of licenses for both hunting and fishing pay the way for conservation of all species of wildlife. The bill proposes to add to the list of exemptions for needing a hunting license. The Department is a fee funded agency and depends on license and permit sales to maintain the recreation and wildlife management programs it administers. One only need look to the current list of exemptions for sales tax to see a glimpse of the future if we continue down this road.

There are also some very significant drafting issues with the bill that should be corrected if the bill sees further action.

**The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the bill and the support of the Committee in opposing the bill.**